

LOADLOCK WITH INTEGRATED PRE-CLEAN CHAMBER

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A wafer carrier adapted to hold a plurality of wafers and is positioned on an elevator plate in a load lock. The elevator plate is adapted to move between a first position with the carrier in a first chamber of the load lock and a second position with the carrier in the auxiliary chamber. In the second position, the elevator plate substantially seals the auxiliary chamber from the first chamber. In use, a first wafer is placed onto the wafer carrier. The wafer carrier can moved into the auxiliary chamber before or after the first wafer is placed onto the wafer carrier. The first wafer is auxiliary processed in the auxiliary chamber. A second wafer is placed onto the wafer carrier. Preferably after the second wafer is placed onto the wafer carrier, the first wafer is removed from the load lock. A third wafer is preferably then placed onto the wafer carrier so that the second wafer can cool. The second wafer is then removed from the load lock. The cycle is repeated.

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